**Development of Desert area in Rajasthan**

1746. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have received any suggestion to set up a Special Desert Development Council for agricultural production and development resulting from the desert area development in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to provide a special package for the development of desert area in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir, the Central Government have received suggestions to set up a separate body for Desert Development in Rajasthan. However, a separate body for development of desert areas was not felt necessary as the Central Government is already providing necessary policy directions and financial support to the State Government for the development of these areas through special area development programmes. For implementation of these development programmes, an elaborate institutional mechanism involving Government Agencies, NGOs and Panchayati Raj Institutions has been working effectively.

(b) and (c) For integrated development of desert areas of Rajasthan a special area development programme namely Desert Development Programme (DDP) is under implementation since 1977-78. Presently 85 blocks of 16 districts of Rajasthan are covered under this programme and 851 Watershed Projects are under implementation in these districts. In addition, special projects for combating desertification through afforestation, sand dune stabilization and shelterbelt plantations in 10 identified districts of Rajasthan have been sanctioned in current financial year (1999-2000). The total estimated cost fo these projects in Rs. 9750 lakhs and a sum of Rs. 1096.88 lakhs has already been released to these districts as first instalment for implementing these special projects. The district-wise details regarding these special projects is given in the statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement**

*Special Projects Under Desert Development Programme in Rajasthan*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sr. No. | Name of the District | No.of Spl. projects | Total Outlay | Central Share | 1st Instalment released |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Barmer | 62 | 1537.50 | 1153.13 | 172.97 |
| 2. | Bikaner | 58 | 1462.50 | 1096.88 | 164.53 |
| 3. | Churu | 37 | 925.00 | 693.75 | 104.06 |
| 4. | Jaisalmer | 68 | 1700.00 | 1275.00 | 191.25 |
| 5. | Jalore | 23 | 562.50 | 421.87 | 63.28 |
| 6. | Jhunjhunu | 12 | 312.50 | 234.38 | 35.16 |
| 7. | Jodhpur | 49 | 1212.50 | 909.37 | 136.41 |
| 8. | Nagaur | 38 | 962.50 | 721.87 | 108.28 |
| 9. | Pali | 26 | 650.00 | 487.50 | 73.13 |
| 10. | **Sikar** | 17 | 425.00 | 318.75 | **47.81** |
| | Total | 390 | 9750.00 | 7312.50 | 1096.88 |

**Financial Assistance to NGOs of Assam**

747. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the NGOs of Assam who have received financial assistance from CAPART, with details of schemes undertaken by them;

(b) whether the work of the NGOs in Assam is being monitored properly; and

(c) if so, by whom and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) CAPART have forwarded a list showing the names of NGOs of Assam State and the scheme-wise amounts sanctioned and released to them (by CAPART) since inception, as on 23.02.2000, which is given in the Annexure. *(See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 22)

(b) and (c)The projects sanctioned by CAPART are regularly monitored by Project Evaluators empanelled by CAPART, when it becomes due. The